

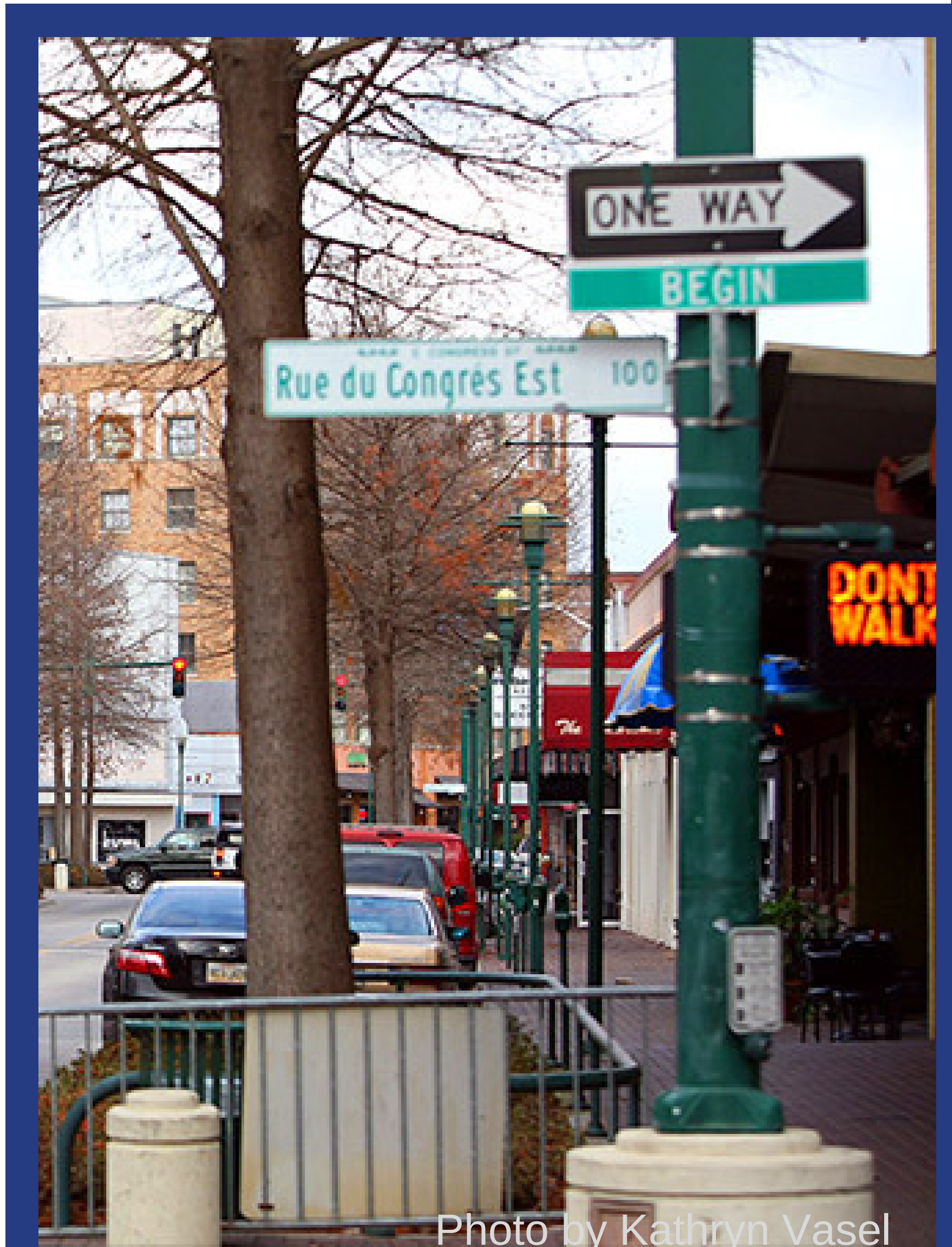


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*Lafayette*

VOTER'S GUIDE

November 18, 2017



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# VOTING INFO

## VOTING HOURS

SATURDAY 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

## QUALIFICATIONS

-MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE AT  
LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR

## REQUIREMENTS

-PHOTO I.D.  
-MUST VOTE AT REGISTERED PRECINCT

## WHAT IS A MILLAGE RATE?

A MILLAGE RATE IS THE AMOUNT OF  
MONEY YOU WILL BE TAXED PER  
THOUSAND DOLLARS OF PROPERTY YOU  
OWN. LOUISIANA CAPS MILLAGE RATES  
AT 10 PERCENT OF TOTAL VALUE FOR  
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, AND 15  
PERCENT OF TOTAL VALUE FOR  
COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES.



# PARISH COURTHOUSE



This tax was first proposed and approved in 1993. It appeared on the ballot for renewal in spring 2017 but failed to renew. This amendment has a 2.34 mills tax for the courthouse and jail complex and a 2.06 mills tax for the jail. This tax is to help with the upkeep of the Parish courthouse and the Jail.

## ON THE BALLOT:

Shall the Parish of Lafayette, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), continue to levy a 2.34 mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$5,286,267 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2018 and ending with the year 2027, for the purposes of maintaining, operating and improving the Lafayette Parish Courthouse Complex?

### A Vote "Yes"

- The budget will generally stay the same and money will not have to be re-assigned.
  - Will continue to pay Lafayette local Sheriff's Department.
  - Continue to Pay for Inmates food, housing, and medical needs.
- Deals with the upkeep and improvements of the Parish Courthouse and Jail.

### A Vote "No"

- An approximate \$5 million hole in the Lafayette budget.
  - Reallocation from drainage.
    - Risk parish bankruptcy.
  - Eliminates the current mills tax.



# MINIMUM SECURITY DETENTION CENTER

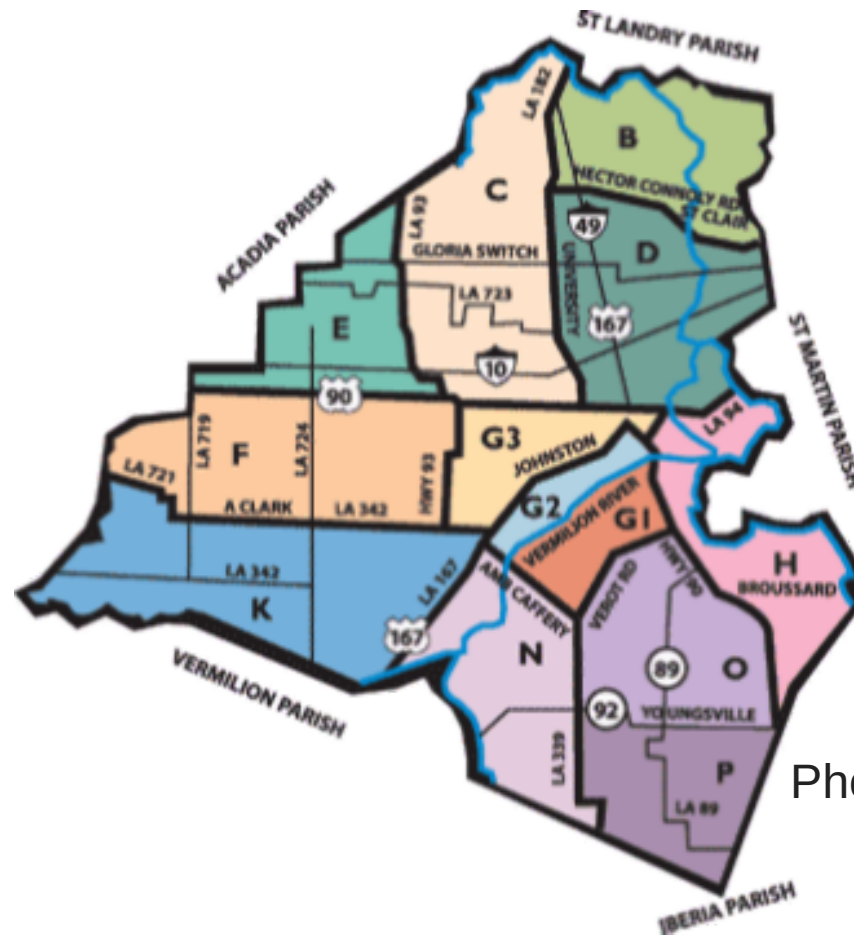


Photo by Arla Slaughter

In 2014, just in Lafayette alone, there were 12,985 prisoners housed in correctional facilities. Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate (per capita) in the world. There are five correctional facilities in Lafayette Parish. Throughout the years, the Parish Minimum Detention and Correctional Facility Tax Proposition has funded the upkeep of these correctional facilities, with all shortfall being subsidized by the Lafayette parish general fund. The parish residents pay for the Parish Minimum Detention and Correctional Facility Tax through a millage rate of 2.06 mills (dollars per thousand). The tax renewal failed last May, and is back on the ballot this Fall.

## ON THE BALLOT:

"Shall the Parish of Lafayette, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), continue to levy a 2.06 mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$4,653,718 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2018 and ending with the year 2027, for the purposes of maintaining, operating and improving the minimum security detention and correctional facility?"

### A Vote "Yes"

- Lafayette correctional facilities will be able to keep their current rate of incarceration. The Lafayette Parish Correctional center is, at any point in time, at or near capacity. Any reduction in income will require some form of downsizing.
- The conditions in the correctional facilities will be able to properly meet Eighth Amendment standards. To abide by Supreme Court precedent regarding the Eight Amendment, Lafayette must provide proper conditions in its facilities, in accordance with *Helling v. McKinney* (1993).
- The parish will continue to fund programs in an attempt to lower recidivism rates. The responsibilities of correctional facilities include the rehabilitation of the prisoners.

### A Vote "No"

- Lafayette Parish residents would not have to pay the \$2.06 per thousand dollars of property owned (up to \$10,000 on each piece of property) required if this renewal were approved. As a result, there would be an approximate \$5 million hole in the Lafayette budget. Funding would be taken from the Lafayette parish general fund to cover mandated operational costs.
  - Defunding correctional facilities would force our local government to be more careful in its arrest and conviction rates.
- On top of residential properties not having to be charged up to 10% of their full value, all commercial properties would also be exempt from being charged 15% of their full value. This will save businesses money that could be spent increasing revenue.

### Sources:

(Criminal Law Bulletin, Fall 2014, Volume 50, Issue 5).  
Louisiana Property Tax Basics  
(Criminal Law Bulletin, Fall 2014, Volume 50, Issue 5)

# DRAINAGE

(On the ballot with Arts & Tourism)



Mayor President-Robideaux has proposed a budget shift in order to deal with the drainage problems Lafayette faces. His plan is to take an existing \$9.3 million out of the \$11.5 million surplus that is sitting in the Public Health fund, and put it towards drainage. The current drainage budget is \$6.8 million for a fiscal year, but exceeds that budget using over \$7 million each fiscal year. While the Public Health fund pulls in about \$8 million each fiscal year and only uses \$4.4 million of its revenue.

The ballot itself is for the rededication of money from the dedicated funds that use less than their budget for a fiscal year, and put it towards the flooding and drainage budget. The rededication would also dedicate a portion of the funds to arts and tourism (explained in Part 5), potentially generating a profit from economic stimulation. This rededication would bring the drainage budget to \$16.1 million.

Mayor President Robideaux has proposed a project that would construct 63 miles of coulees, channels and other drainage, estimating the minimal cost to be around \$20 million. Currently, the budget shift does not have a specific project planned, and the distribution and use of the funds will ultimately be in the control of the city council. Ultimately, the plan for a budget shift towards drainage could produce the funds necessary for the safety and health of Lafayette Parish residents, while improving the economy.

## ON THE BALLOT:

Shall the Parish of Lafayette, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), be authorized to rededicate the proceeds heretofore or hereafter received by the Parish from the levy and collection of a 3.56 mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish, authorized pursuant to Proposition No. 2 at an election held on March 28, 2015 (the "Tax") (an estimated \$8,000,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), to be levied through the year 2025, for the following purposes: (i) 1.10 mills together with \$9,000,000 heretofore collected, for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, improving and maintaining drains and drainage facilities in the Parish, (ii) .25 mills for the purpose of providing, establishing, operating, improving, and expanding public facilities and programs to foster and enhance the Parish's culture, recreation, entertainment, arts, tourism and their respective economies, and (iii) 2.21 mills for public health purposes as set forth in Proposition No. 2 of the election held on March 28, 2015?



# DRAINAGE

## A Vote "Yes"

- Rededicate excess money from the Public Health budget to fix drainage problems.
  - Small portion of money will go to arts and tourism for economic stimulation.
  - The rededication of money would prevent drainage from going over the budget while leaving more than enough funding for health.

City council will have authority to decide how drainage is improved using the budget.

## A Vote "No"

- The excess money in the Public Health fund will stay there with no additional funding provided for drainage.
  - The drainage project will continue to exceed its budget each fiscal year.
- Funding for measures that would prevent flooding would not be possible without future rededications or milages.
- No additional funds would be provided to arts and tourism, meaning the current economic state of arts and tourism in Lafayette would remain as is.



# ARTS & TOURISM

(On the ballot with drainage)

Photo By LivingRootless-Blogspot



Mayor-President Joel Robideaux has come up with a plan known as "CREATE"—the Culture, Recreation, Entertainment, Arts, Tourism Economy initiative under the Public Health Millage Rededication Proposition bill. This plan would rededicate \$500,000 of the public health tax to Lafayette's Arts and Tourism.

## A Vote "Yes"

- Create a fast-growing, as well as, dynamic industry of clustered businesses.
- Help attract young entrepreneurs and or grant funds related to these economic areas.

City will have the authority to decide specific projects this money will be used to support related to culture, entertainment, recreation, arts, and tourism.

## A Vote "No"

- The money used towards the funding of Arts and Tourism would remain dedicated to the Public Health fund.
- Lafayette would need to hold a separate future rededication or millage proposal to fund such projects.





# FAQ

## How do I register to vote?

You may go to...

- Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles
- Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
  - WIC offices
  - Food stamp offices
  - Medicaid offices
- Offices serving persons with disabilities such as the Deaf Action Centers and Independent Living offices
- Armed Forces recruitment offices

You can also register by visiting <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/RegisterToVote/Pages/default.aspx>

You may also register by mail to vote. Go to the website above and follow all "register by mail" prompts.

## What are the requirements to vote?

- U.S. citizen
- Lafayette Parish resident
- At least 18 years of age
- Photo I.D.
- Registered to vote at least 30 days prior

## What do I bring on voting day?

- Be prepared to show a photo identification card with your photo and signature when voting.

## Where and when do I vote?

- Saturday November 18th, 2017 from 7 am - 8 pm
- To find out where you are registered to vote, go to <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/> and follow the prompts.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This voter's guide was created by the students Enrolled in POLS 317-002: State and Local Politics with Dr. Christie Maloyed at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Fall 2017. All information was found from local sources as credited below.

## Drainage

<https://kadn.com/council-ends-drainage-and-create-money-proposal>  
<http://www.katc.com/story/35990679/tax-re-dedication-for-drainage-and-create-initiative-heads-to-november-ballot>

## FAQ

<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/RegisterToVote/Pages/default.aspx>  
<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/>

## Courthouse

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/2017/07/20/robideaux-wants-parish-health-tax-rededicated-drainage-culture/495393001/>  
<http://www.lafayettela.gov/Budget/SiteAssets/Files/FY-2018-PROPOSED-BUDGET-DOCUMENT-WEB.pdf>  
<http://theind.com/article-1737-vote-yes-for-lafayette-tax-renewals.html>

## Arts and Tourism

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theadvertiser.com/amp/509896001>

## Prison

<http://www.lafayettela.gov/Finance/SiteAssets/Files/Accounting/LCG2014CAFR.pdf>  
<https://www.lafayettesheriff.com/site.php>